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Oregon Hospital for the Insane reports

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Report of the Superintendent of the Oregon Hospital for the Insane, <1872>

Biennial report of the Superintendent ... 1874-1880

Biennial report of the Oregon Hospital for the Insane to the Legislative Assesmbly, <1882>

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REPORT

OF THE

SUPERINTENDENT

OF THE

OREGON HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.

To His Excellency, L. F. GROVER,

Governor of the State of Oregon:

I herewith transmit, as required by law, the Fifth Biennial Report of the condition, etc., of the Oregon Hospital for Insane.

Whole number of patients remaining in the Hospital September 1, 1870:

STATE PATIENTS —	
Males	87
Females	34
PRIVATE —	
Females	1
Total	122

Whole number of patients admitted to the Hospital from September 1, 1870, to September 1, 1872:

STATE PATIENTS —

Males	90
Females	41

PRIVATE —

Males	4
Females	3
Total	138

Whole number of patients treated in Hospital from September 1, 1870, to September 1, 1872:

STATE PATIENTS —

Males	177
Females	75

PRIVATE —

Males	4
Females	4
Total	260

Whole number of patients discharged, from September 1, 1870, to September 1, 1872:

STATE PATIENTS—

Cured Males	39	
Cured Females	20	
		—59
Improved Males	8	
Improved Females	5	
		—13
Died, Males	15	
Died, Females	2	
		—17

PRIVATE—

Improved Females	1—	1
Died, Females	1—	1
Cured Males	1	
Cured Females	1—	2
Total Males, 63; Females, 30;		93

Whole number remaining in the Hospital September 1, 1872:

STATE PATIENTS—

Males	116
Females	47

PRIVATE—

Males	3
Females	1
Total	167

Of the whole number of State and private patients discharged cured, twenty-two remained in the Hospital less than three months; twenty, less than six months; nine, less than one year; and eight, more than one year

Of the whole number of State and private patients discharged improved, two were in the Hospital less than three months; five, less than six months; four, less than twelve months; and two, more than one year.

CAUSE OF DEATH.

Fifteen males and two females, State patients, and one private female patient, have died since my last report. Of these deaths two resulted from pneumonia, three from epileptic mania, two from pulmonary consumption, one from organic disease of the heart, one from organic disease of the brain, three from exhaustion of chronic mania, one from chronic diarrhœa and debility, two from paralysis and general debility, one from softening of tubercle and subsequent hemorrhage, one from dropsy of chest, one from disease of liver.

Of the nativity of one hundred and sixty-seven patients remaining in the Hospital September 1, 1872, there are of the United States, one hundred and fifteen; Germany, eleven; Ireland, fourteen; Norway, two; England, three; France, four; Scotland, one; Austria, two; Canada, four; China, four; Italy, one; Africa, one; Poland, 1; San Domingo, one; unknown, three.

Of those remaining in the Hospital at this date the form of disease is, acute mania, twenty-two; chronic mania ninety-two; epilepsy, fifteen; monomania, three; melancholy, three; dementia, twenty-four; idiocy, eight.

Of the whole number of patients now on hand, sixty-two are considered curable, seventy-nine incurable, and twenty-six doubtful.

Seven private patients have been received since last report, two of whom were discharged, one died, and four remain on hand.

The rates of recoveries to admissions, since last report, is forty-two and three-fourths per cent.

The deaths amount to seven per cent. of whole number treated.

The highest number of patients under treatment, in the Hospital, at any one time, was one hundred and seventy.

The lowest number of patients under treatment, in the Hospital, at any one time, was one hundred and twenty-two.

The average number of patients under treatment, for the whole time, was one hundred and forty-six and ten one-hundredths.

The whole number of males under treatment was one hundred and eighty-one; females, seventy-nine.

The highest number of males under treatment, at any one time, since last report, was one hundred and twenty-one.

The highest number of females under treatment, at any one time, since last report, was forty-nine.

The lowest number of males under treatment, at any one time, since last report, was eighty-seven.

The lowest number of females under treatment, at any one time, since last report, was thirty-five.

One patient, who was mentioned in my last report as having escaped, has been returned.

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and in the event of their restoration to reason, and discharge from the institution, are unable to reach their homes for want of a few dollars. To turn these poor people out without money, employment, or any way of reaching their homes, is to expose them to the danger of a relapse to their former mental condition. To many of this class I have given, out out of my own means, the full amount required to take them home. In other cases, the stage, railroad, and steamboat companies, have made some deduction on their fare, the balance of which I have paid. For some few I have been able to find employment until they had earned enough for this purpose, but this is always a difficult thing to do. Would it not be an act of economy as well as charity on the part of the Legislature to make some reasonable provision for such cases? Since by so doing the patient will be restored to his friends, who though unable to assist him with money, may by their sympathy and encouragement, keep him in the way of permanent health, and thus prevent his falling again a helpless dependent upon the bounty of the State. I make this suggestion hoping, for the sake of the unfortunates whom it would benefit, that your Excellency may deem it worthy of a recommendation to the Legislasure. The failure on the part of the State to comply with the provisions of the contract for the care and treatment of the insane, to pay quarterly in gold coin, has occasioned me much embarrassment, and considerable loss, nevertheless I have endeavored faithfully to fulfill my part of the contract, in letter and in spirit.

Owing to the increased number of patients in the Asylum, I have found it necessary to engage the services of an Assistant Physician, Dr. A. M. Ballard, who resides in the institution, and devotes his time and attention wholly to the duties of the position.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

In behalf of the inmates of the Asylum, I take pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of seventy-five volumes of books, six dozen stereoscopic views, a number of vocal and instrumental music books, London Illustrated News, atlasses, &c., from Mr. J. S. Pierson, of the city of New York; from Rev. T. L. Eliot, and the members of his congregation, Portland, fifty volumes of books, besides periodicals and papers, at various times during the last two years; from Messrs. Kohn & Fishel, of Portland, two large and beautiful cakes, on each Christmas since my last report; from Mr. E. Milwain, Portland, a magnificient fruit cake on last Christmas.

For the interest taken in the welfare of the unfortunate persons under my charge, and the kindness and encouragement extended to me personally, I return to your Excellency my sincere thanks.

To Dr. A. D. Ellis, State Visiting Physician, I return my acknowledgments for his uniform courtesy, professional aid, and conscientious discharge of his duty in behalf of the interests of the State, and of its wards.

To my Superintendent, Asssistant Matron and Wardens, I return my sincere thanks for the faithful performance of the various and arduous duties devolving upon them in their several positions, and for their forbearance, kindness and tenderness toward those under their charge.

In closing this report I may be permitted to renew the hope expressed in my last, that those who control the legis-

lation of our State will, at all times, watch over and protect this poor and helpless class of our citizens, and provide for them the comforts of a home where they may receive such care and medical treatment as will restore to reason all who are susceptible of such results; and, for those who are not, the comforts and sympathies their condition so much demands.

J. C. HAWTHORNE.

EAST PORTLAND, Oregon,
September 1, 1872.